5p

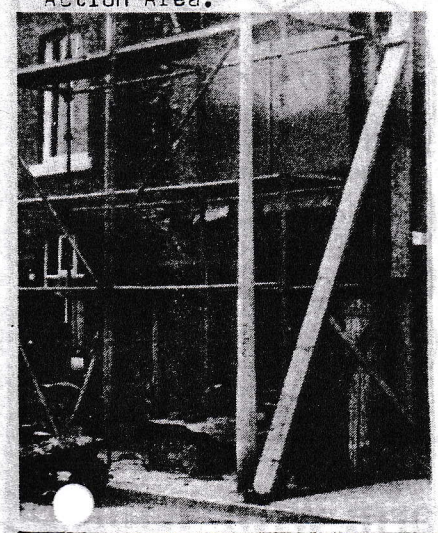
WEB

WEST END BULLETIN - MARCH 1977 - NUMBER: 3.

THINGS ARE HAPPENING !

Action Area

Take a look down Marlborough Street and you'll see a Tameside property is being improved. This is the first bit of work in the Housing Action Area.



This is the first of the 9 Tameside properties that are due to be improved in this part of the West End. We understand that 5 grants have recently been approved for private house-owners and that work on these houses should start within the next few weeks. Apparently about another 50 private grant applications are already in the pipeline.

MONSTER

The monster has stirred! Yes, the great bureaucratic machine (the wonder of our 20th century) has groaned and creaked into action. At long last the Victoria St. and Oxford St.C.P.O's have been sent off to Peter Shore at the Dept. of Environement. It's taken a year to get this far even with pressure from residents. So let's hope Mr. Shore isn't keen on repeat performances.

THEY LISTEN

It seems that our article of the great playscheme fiasco (WEB 2) hit home. The scurryings and furtive whisperings from the direction of Tamesides Denton offices indicate that the powers that be are getting worried about papers telling the truth for once.

Well, gentlemen all we can say is WATCH THIS SPACE. There's plenty more hometruths on the way from where that one came from. And the lesson for us in the West End is: IF YOU WANT THEM TO TAKE NOTICE PUT IT IN PRINT! PUT IT IN WEB!

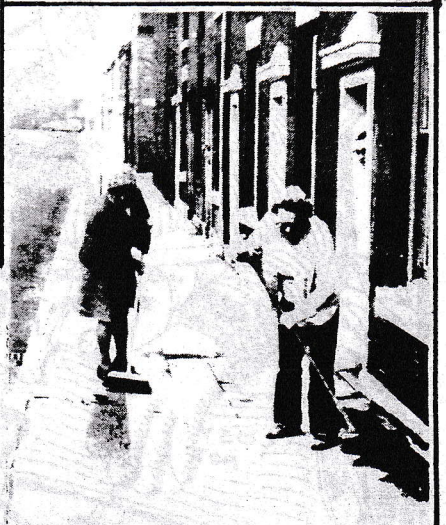
WEB Sell Out

Last month WEB sold out in three days. This issue is bigger and better, but we still need more people from the West End to write for us, to sell it, and to come along and run it. Why not you ?

Ryecroft Clean Up

Sick of paying rates and still facing litter-strewn streets? Ryecroft Residents are organising a do-it-yourself clean-up campaign.

Full report ... page 2.



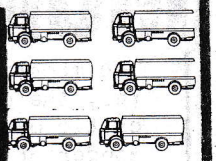
H.A.D. VYAS
(HARRY'S)
OFF LICENCE
162, RYECROFT ST.
----- WINES -----
SPIRITS --- BEERS
----- CIGS. ------
SWEETS ----- POP
MIXED GROCERIES
BIRDS EYE
FROZEN FOODS
OPEN
Mon. to Sat. 8-30am · 2-30pm
3-30pm · 10-30pm
Sun. 10am - 2pm
6pm - 10pm

RID RYECROFT OF RUBBISH !!

Every time you open your front door are you greeted with a street full of litter - and if you go through the back do you find yourself clambering over rubbish that you never put there? Well, the Ryecroft Residents Committee have decided that they've had enough of it and are starting a campaign to clean up their area.

coming soon

Under the banner 'Rid Ryecroft of Rubbish' they're launching a community effort to clean up the fronts and backs. So, watch out for the posters and stickers due out in a short time, and if you think they're on to a good thing why not offer to give them a hand? They meet each Monday evening 7.30 at 67 Cambridge Street.



John Nuttall

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

If it wasn't for the magnetic pull of the earth

You would have TONS of litter floating past your window!

keep warm with Willie

Could it be significant that another undertaker has moved into our area?

The north west has always had the reputation of being an unhealthy place to live. Is it the damp? Is it the cold? Is it Tameside Council?

In this issue we highlight problems of heating for the elderly (see page 6 & 7) but perhaps we can all get hints on keeping warm, not only economy measures, but anything to combat our vicious winter climate.

Have you any unusual or interesting ideas for keeping warm? If so, send them to me at WEB and we'll share them with everyone else.

MUMS NEW JOBS

by Jane Rogers.

One particular group of people in the West End (as elsewhere) are suffering more from the cuts than the rest of us; unpaid, and without so much as a thank-you, they are slogging away

at the work more nurses and home helps should do; the work nursery school teachers should be employed for; and even some of the work those thousands of unemployed teachers should have. Wives and mothers have been well and truly clobbered by the cuts.

HOLDING THE BABY

Our welfare state (in theory) is a state which looks after people in need, the old, the sick, children's education.

But, when the money is drained out of the welfare and the state says it can't afford to look after people who need looking after, who is left holding the baby? Who is left not only looking after baby, but also granny (who would have been in an old folk's home), Alan (who is four and would have been in a day nursery), Julie (who is five and would have been at school but can't go because there aren't enough teachers and buildings) and housekeeping with a cost of living which has soared above her husband's wages. Poor old Mum. On top of this, she's probably busy earning wages herself, because her husband's wages just don't make ends meet any more, which means that she has even less time and patience to deal with all the demands.

Who is hardest hit by the fact that the council can't afford to rehouse the family or improve the home? The person who has to keep on "making do" - MUM.

We're all affected by fewer buses, but its three times worse for a mother who has to stand in the freezing cold with three little children and a heavy basket full of groceries (if she can still afford a full basket, that is!)

The job of a housewife has never been easy and today, thanks to the cuts, its getting harder and harder. Mum is ending up doing all the jobs that three or four people used to be employed to do, all at once. And that's a bit worrying because look how many people are unemployed. Why should one person have to do four jobs when four people have none? Alas, the reason is simple; long-suffering mum will do four jobs for no wages at all, but a nurse, a teacher, a home help and a nursery nurse all have to be paid.

The cuts rely on women's willingness to do more than they should ever be expected to do.

EVER FIND YOURSELF MOANING THAT THERES NOTHING HAPPENING IN THE WEST-END ??
WELL...THE MESSAGE IS :

ITS UP TO YOU

In the summer of '75 the council offered the residents of the West End the old Rediffusion building in John Street. The council agreed to put in lighting, plumbing and heating - but the rest was up to us in the West End. Here was an experiment to see how far people would go to help themselves and HEY PRESTO! It worked. 10 out of 10 for the council, and 10 out of 10 for the dedicated people of the West End.

WORK

Mind you, it took time to clean, decorate and develop the vandalised building, and they haven't finished yet, but in 18 short months the area has a thriving Centre -

The idea all along has been that a community centre can really only be a community centre when it is run by the people themselves - and that all the activities that take place are things that people want and are prepared to organise for themselves. As one member said 'If people are sitting on the sidelines waiting for us to arrange things - then I'm afraid they'll sit for ever. We'll give them all the help we can, or if they prefer, they can do it on their own - but please don't wait for us to organise it for them.

So as we said earlier - the message is it's up to you.
Anyone for tennis?
Or better still- anyone to start a cinema club?

JED CRAVEN

MUMS & TOTS

Just recently a Mothers and Tots Group was started at the John St. Community Centre

Every Wednesday morning between 9.30 and 11.30 a group of mothers and their children meet in an informal and friendly atmosphere. The children have toys to play with and some of the mothers take it in turn to involve them in creative play while the others sit and chat over a cup of coffee

We would welcome any new faces so why not call around and see us.

Lynn, Ann and Kathy.

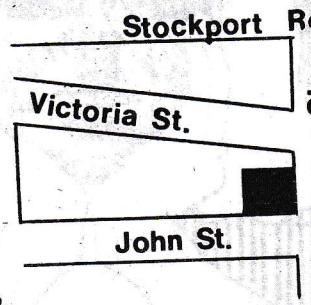
WHAT'S NEW ?

VESTA is a voluntary entertainment in the Tameside area which has operated from Droylesden since May 1976

Good news for the West End is that they are now extending their operations to cover the Ashton area and are to be based at the John St.Community Centre.
Will anyone with talent of any description, either to entertain or in an administrative capacity, who is willing to give a little time, please call at the Community Centre any Friday afternoon.

MUMS & TOTS wed.9-30-11-30 ■ PLAYSCHEMES mon. wed. thurs. 4-6pm ■ YOUTH CLUB wed.7-30-10pm ◆ SUNSHINE CLUB tues.2-4pm ■ WHIST DRIVES thurs.7-30-9-30 ◆ NATURAL HISTORY Soc. third thurs. of month ■ SLIMMING CLUB tues. 7-30-9-30pm ■ ART & CRAFTS tues.7-30-9-30pm ■ KIDS-DISCO sat. 2-4pm ■ TEENS-DISCO fri. 7-30-10pm ◆

WEST-END COMMUNITY CENTRE John St.



This is YOUR Centre!!
Come and take part in the activities.
Especially welcome are new people and new ideas.
Tel. 339 2728

206 SPOTLIGHTS WEST END

A live discussion took place at Radio Manchester on Monday 31st January between Brenda Torr and Alice Ross of WECRA and Councillor Devaney (ex Housing Committe Chairman) and Mr. Bottomley, Environmental Health Officer. Also present was Steve Taylor who had produced the programme which was broadcast on the previous Wednesday and Sunday about the housing in the West End clearance area.

Brenda and Alice described some of the appalling living conditions still to be found in the West End - mould growing on staircases, damp streaming down walls, dangerous wiring, clothes and furniture ruined etc.

"VICTIMS"

Steve Taylor said that his impression from talking to local residents had been that so many different dates had been set for rehousing that now people just did not know who to contact or who to believe.

"Why has nothing been done for so long" he asked Mr.Bottomley, who replied that the council were "doing their best" about a bad situation. He called West End residents "victims of circumstances" whose claims about their shocking housing conditions were "entirely justified".

Mr. Bottomley complained about the "red tape" that tied his hands and said that when re-organisation had taken place the housing policies of the old authorities had had to be rationalised. The interviewer, while sympathising with Mr. Bottomley's problems said that the time taken for anything to be done ($2\frac{1}{2}$ years so far) was surely inexcusable.

Mr. Bottomley went on to say that "I'v done all I can within the law to speed-up rehousing in this area. If things take their normal course rehousing will take place between December '77 and January '78."

Tameside is now in the process of buying up properties in the clearance area. WECRA's view is that residents should be rehoused as and when their properties come into Tameside's ownership. WECRA also feel that there is no reason why Tameside tenants cannot be rehoused NOW.

MICHELLE WALMSLEY

Stop Press

In a recent letter to Beenda Torr, secretary of WECRA, Mr Bottomley has given the following undertaking;

'To give urgent attention to obtaining authority to rehouse each of the tenants of privately owned houses. I therefore propose to contact the owners of all tenanted houses in an attempt to obtain written undertakings not to relet the houses in the event of the existing tenants being re-housed. If these undertakings are forthcoming the Housing Manager will be requested to rehouse as a matter of priority. If the owners are unwilling to give undertakings I will report each individual case to the Housing Service Committee with a recommendation that closing orders be made under the provisions of Sect.16/17 of the Housing Act 1957'

After reading this a member of WECRA was heard to say, 'Thank God, at last it looks as if they've noticed us.'

"WOT WE DOIN AFTER SKU THEN?"

"WELL WE COULD BREAK A FEW WINDOWS, OR RING A FEW DOORBELLS."

---- OR GO TO THE NEW WEST-END PLAYSCHEME

WEST END PLAYSCHEME

Open - 3-30 to 6-30
Mon., Wed., Thur.

Send the kids along and come yourself for some coffee -
Community Centre
John Street

1 in 3 of West Enders are over 60: wh

WEB focusses on.. THE FO

THIS IS YOUR RIGHT:

How to get help with heating bills

If you are a pensioner and you are living off your pension alone, ten to one you are eligible for supplementary benefit too. If you are drawing supplementary benefit, you can probably get an allowance to pay part of your heating bills.

Can't Live On Pension

The Dept. of Health and Soc. Security admits (unnofficially) that a pension is not enough to live off. A married couple, where the husband has retired and the wife does not work but is still under 60, draw a pension of £24.50 per week. The D.H.S.S says that they need at least £31.35 per week. But they won't give it automatically - you have to go along and claim the extra £6 odd as supplementary benefit.

Popular Mistake

A lot of people think you can't draw supplementary benefit if you have savings; WRONG! You can draw supplementary benefit if you have up to £1,250 savings.

Heating Bills

There are 2 ways to get help with heating bills:

(1) A new scheme for help with elec. bills. Ask at your local post office for a leaflet about this. Basically, you have to take your electricity bill to the Post Office where you draw your Sup. Benefit and they give you a voucher worth 25% (a quarter) of the bill. THIS SCHEME WILL END ON MAY 1st THIS YEAR.

(2) Extra supplementary benefit for heating YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO THIS IF;

a. You find it difficult to get about quickly
b. Someone in the house is severely ill (e.g. bronchitis)
c. Your house is damp and so difficult to heat
d. You have central heating (about 70p per week for any of these)

AND there are various other cases where extra benefit can be claimed.

Many pensioners don't claim their rights because they don't know them. YOUR RIGHTS is a booklet that sets out the benefits, covers legal help, tax, nat. health, rent and rebates, supplementary pensions etc.

If you would like this important booklet you can get one from the Community Centre, price 14p..

Sunshine Club

EVERY TUESDAY at 2 o'clock the rattle of cups and saucers can be heard at the Community Centre, when the Sunshine Club holds its weekly meeting. What could be better on a boring and perhaps for some, a lonely Tuesday afternoon, than a good old cup of tea, some music, dancing and a game or two of bingo. There are also occasional raffles, auctions, bring and buy sales and last year they organised a trip for themselves to Southport. And at Xmas they organised their own Christmas Party and some " great entertainment" was laid on by VESTA.

If you are interested in swelling the membership, which is already 80, contact Jessie Kelly at 198 Marlborough Street, or come along to the Community Centre on Tuesday afternoon.

at's around for them?

RGOTTEN THIRD

Sheltered housing

"What on earth is that?" you may say. The answer is, as WEB found out, the best idea yet for providing safe accommodation for our senior citizens, whilst at the same time ensuring that they retain their much valued independance.

Many of you will have seen the sheltered housing projects in this area, they are Ryefield on [illegible]croft St., and Birchfield on Stockport Road. The buildings themselves consist of a number of flats, some have a seperate bedroom, these are for couples. For single people there are bed-sitters. Each one of the flats is fitted with an intercom with which help can be summoned in emergencies.

Many of the people who move into these flats are worried about the rather high rents. This is one area where the warden can help with advice about the Social Security benefits which are available. Most of the residents also have a home help, provided by Social Services, to assist with household chores.

Apart from a communal laundry room there is also a spacious lounge where various activities are arranged. These include concerts, choral evenings, bingo and a handicrafts afternoon. Many of the products of the handicraft afternoon at Ryefield are given to the Bring and Buy Sales which are held frequently.

To get the opinion of some of the residents WEB went along to Ryefield.

"We have a wonderful warden to whom nothing is too much trouble", this sentiment was echoed by everyone we spoke to. One of the ladies, Mrs. E.Hall says "I really like it here, and wouldn't go back to my old home for anything. Mrs. Goodwin calls each day to see if everything is alright, it makes me feel more secure living here".

"Do you know?" says Mrs. N. Howarth, "I can't remember when I was last as comfortable as I am now. I have a lovely warm flat and plenty of friends".

Two interesting suggestions were given by Mrs. Hayes, who says she would like a bus route nearby and it would be a great help if a crossing could be provided on Manchester Road. As she quite rightly points out many of the older people aren't so nimble and find crossing this particular road very difficult.

So to the other senior citizens in this area, WEB and the residents of Ryefield say in unison "Don't be afraid of sheltered housing, its great".

Lynn Bradley

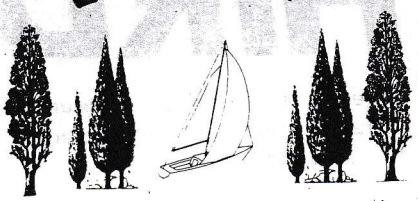
Oxford park club

Open every afternoon for men over 65 (and evenings if there are enough people).
Free admission, annual membership 50p.
Through the summer, bowling every day, during the winter, cards and dominoes are played with whist on a Tuesday afternoon times 2 - 5.
At present there are about 52 members, if interested go to the club any afternoon.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

If you find yourself with some spare time on your hands why not pop along to see if the old lady or gent along the street needs a helping hand. You don't need to belong to a scheme of any kind to help. Most of the older people are just glad of a few minutes chat with someone. Shopping and visiting are just two ways anyone could help out.

Wild West (end!)



Canal at the Portland Basin

At first glance the canal is just a filthy rubbish-filled stretch of water. Nothing could be further from the truth. Try peering into the canal on a bright sunny day. You'll probably find funny-looking weeds block your view until suddenly you come across a clear space and you see, maybe, a dragon fly larvae fighting to the death with a young stickle-back. Or, you notice a curious looking beetle rowing itself through the water with its built-in oars, or the fascinating dance of numerous whirlygig beetles.

On a recent visit to a stretch between Margaret St. and Scotland St. I found many varieties of water plants, the most common being the Canadian pond weed, as well as an exotic plant from Africa known as Lagarosiphou Major, which is perhaps the most beautiful and certainly the rarest within Tameside.

Dave Copeland

W.E.B. POEM

We've a reet good town in Ashton
And it's full of reet good folk
There's odd uns that are awkward
And rest they allus oak.

Some live in right posh ouses
Up bi park and Hartshead Pike
And plenty live close to Tip
Perhaps that's why thi strike

And there's plenty muck in Ashton
That's not fairly spread around
Slums and life's degredation
Are kept in west of town.

It inna fair and it inna reason
For muck and mills still grow
Stranded folk still between em
Humiliated and waiting to go.

They'll never mek things even
Muck no-one wants to share
But when them that gets most of it
Shout-then its time to be aware

Why can't them that have o'say
and like to swank at front
Do summat for sad uns
and dispel this sad affront

Forget the quids just f'awhil
And humans they mun consider
For if you're born in Clyde St
you breathe and think and shiver.

C.D.

send your poems to web

Face To Face!

YOUR PROBLEMS ARE OURS;;
SO BRING THEM ALONG TO US,
COUNCILLORS: F. RUFFLEY,
J.V. PETTIT & P. McENEANEY
AT

Trafalgar Square Nursery 1st 3rd **SAT. EVERY MONTH**
Holy Trinity School
BETWEEN 10a.m. & 12noon

FOR THE BEST FISH&CHIPS COME TO JANET AND ALF'S
OUR SPECIALITY IS T-BONE STEAK
34 KELVIN ST.

» ADVERTISE IN WEB! «
Ring 330 5664 for rates.

WEB needs YOU!

They Fought To Keep This!!

(They Must Be Joking)

Not long ago the education battle in Tameside made headlines right through the nation and it even finished up in the High Court - What did the tories fight for? Well, we will tell you.

50 Minute Quiz

They fought for the right to determine you child's future in a fifty minute exam which was performed on a YES/NO interlude basis.

Test papers contained up to 90 questions and the time r question = 55½ seconds.

As you probably already know most children have a flair for something, even if its only mischief, but when he or she takes the exam and doesn't happen to have the flair for quick superficial thinking, well, you know the answer don't you?

And even if your child did pass this 'test' there's no guarantee he or she will get one of the available places. Places determine passes, not vice-verca.

Farce!

Is this what the tories fought for, and wasted so much money on? An inadequate, unjust crazy farce?

Well, WEB thought it was the turn of Councillors Thorpe and Grantham to take a test, and here it is

The 45 Plus

Q. How many grammar school places in Tameside?

A. 300.

Q. If all 3000 kids pass the exam how will you find them all places?

A. Well let's see, you divide 3,000 into 300 which = 10 kids for each place. The school opens 5 days per week, five mornings and five afternoons which = 10 sessions per week. Yes, Yes, that's the answer the kids can go on shifts!

Q. Why not go comprehensive and give every kid a chance?

A. Well, we'd look silly backing down now wouldn't we?

Q. If we said that it was only fair to encourage each child's individual flair, whether it be maths, english, religion or whatever - what would your answer be?

A. We're not allowed to think like that in the tory party so don't ask me!

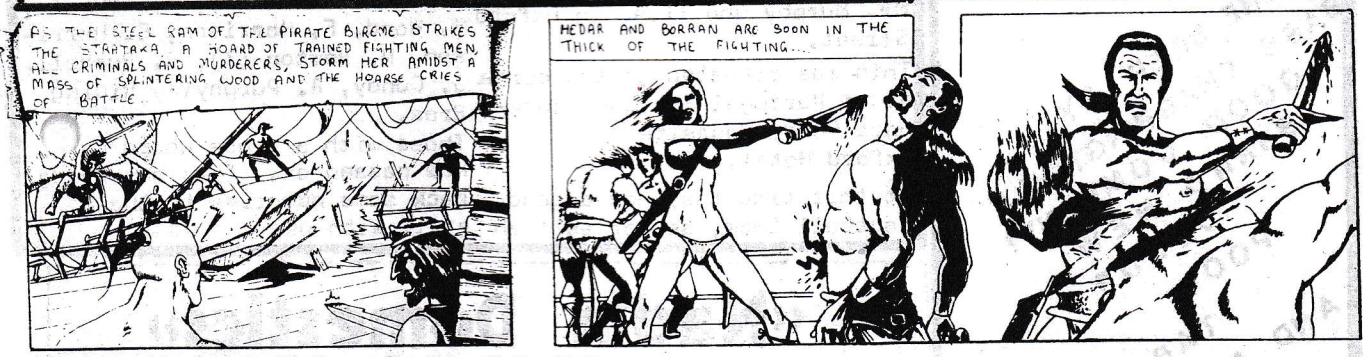
John Lomax

Be a W.E.B. local Reporter !!

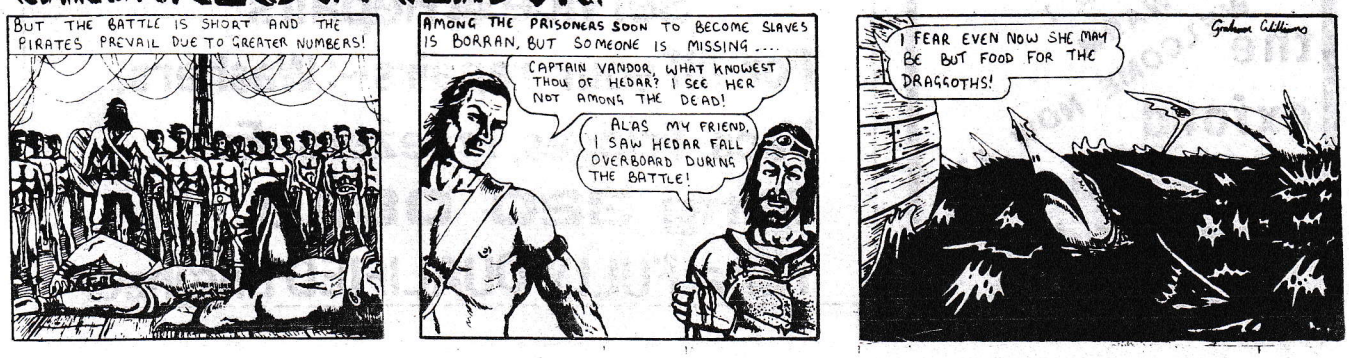
COME ALONG TO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ANY WEDNESDAY AFTER 8 p.m. WITH ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE WEST-END

SWAP-SHOP 330 5664

Free in the next issue


AS THE STEEL RAM OF THE PIRATE BIREME STRIKES THE STARTAKA, A HOARD OF TRAINED FIGHTING MEN, ALL CRIMINALS AND MURDERERS, STORM HER AMIDST A MASS OF SPLINTERING WOOD AND THE HOARSE CRIES OF BATTLE
HEDAR AND BORRAN ARE SOON IN THE THICK OF THE FIGHTING...

CHRONICLES of PELADOR.


BUT THE BATTLE IS SHORT AND THE PIRATES PREVAIL DUE TO GREATER NUMBERS!
AMONG THE PRISONERS SOON TO BECOME SLAVES IS BORRAN, BUT SOMEONE IS MISSING....
CAPTAIN VANDOR, WHAT KNOWEST THOU OF HEDAR? I SEE HER NOT AMONG THE DEAD!
ALAS MY FRIEND, I SAW HEDAR FALL OVERBOARD DURING THE BATTLE!
I FEAR EVEN NOW SHE MAY BE BUT FOOD FOR THE DRAGGOTHS!
Graham Williams

EVER BEEN PUSHED FROM PILLAR TO POST AT A TAMESIDE OFFICE? YOU HAVE? WHAT A SURPRISE ! THIS IS JUST FOR YOU, IT'S THE

W.E.B. English/Officialese Phrase Book

What You Say →	What They Say →	What They Mean
Dear Sir, the letter I wrote 6 months ago	Your letter is being attended to	Your letter is getting dusty in a basket
Dear Sir, I remind you of my letter	You will hear from us in due course	We've lost the basket
Hello, is that ....?	Sorry the lines engaged	I've not finished my chat yet, go away.
Hello, ...could I speak..	Sorry he's busy	He's not finished his chat yet, go away.
Hello, I insist on speaking to	He's out.	He's in but can't be bothered.
Hello, is he in yet	He's in, but at a very important conference	He's out playing golf.
Hello, - At last - I wonder if	Sorry, nothing I can do. Not up to me. Regulations, Rules - Blah,blah.	It's up to me. But I can't be bothered. Go away, you pest.
I'm going to write to the paper about you.	I'll look into the matter immediately.	He's scared. We're all scared - Go away.
Well .....?	I'm terribly, terribly sorry sir. But we've just been reorganised. This Dept. is no longer responsible for your case. Write to	HA! HA!
Dear Sir, the ltter I wrote 18 months ago	Your letter is being attended to	Your letter is getting dusty in a basket.

THE END - OR RATHER THE BEGINNING (AGAIN) Mike Harris

THE OXFORD INN

FINE BEER BY BASS CHARRINGTON !
GOOD COMPANY!
BRAND NEW DECOR !
POOL TABLE !
AND A WARM WELCOME NOW AT
the oxford inn
STOCKPORT RD.

RYECROFTER REMEMBERS

I remember West End Weslyan Church, a large corrugated army hut, in the care of Mr. Murphy who lived in Oxford Street.

This was situated at the corner of Portugal St. and Stockport Road, opposite the Oxford Hotel.

At this time they had a good football team, as far as I an remember the players' names were as follows :-

Nab Thornley, H. Corbett (X), J. Bottomley, S. Broadbent, W.Winterbottom (X), P. Eakin(x) S. Wood, F. Harrison, E. Harrison, P. Newton (X), J. Bushell, J. Cundy, A. Purphy(X) Riding Bros.

Those with a cross above ha... now passed on. This may bring back some memories to those still with us.

«Nadin Domestics»
Service & Repairs
For all your repairs—: Washers, Vacs, Fridges, Freezers, Ect.
Ring 320 0888
For a FULLY QUALIFIED Engineer